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ROPES & GRAY

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Dated: 11/12/02

Signature:

Joanne Ryan
(Joanne Ryan)

Official Fax

Docket No.: BURF-P01-010
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Utility Application of:
Preparata et al.

Application No.: 09/416,779

Group Art Unit: 1631

Filed: October 13, 1999

Examiner: Lori Clow

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
SEQUENCING BY HYBRIDIZATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

#27/E
Plunkett
11/20/02

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2002, and to supplement the Response filed October 29, 2002, Applicants submit the following remarks and a clean set of all claims as amended.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED:

1. A nucleic acid probe, comprising a sequence of universal and designate nucleotides ordered in a pattern, wherein

- (a) the pattern comprises a first string of universal nucleotides followed by a first segment, and a second string of universal nucleotides followed by a second segment,
- (b) the first string and the second string each comprise two or more consecutive universal nucleotides; and
- (c) the first segment and the second segment each comprise a designate nucleotide.